

Pronoun-Antecedent Agreement C

8t. Some indefinite pronouns are plural, some are singular, and some may be either.

(1) Use a singular pronoun to refer to *anybody, anyone, anything, each, either, everybody, everyone, everything, neither, nobody, nothing, no one, one, somebody, someone, and something*.

EXAMPLES **Each** of the boys likes **his** new uniform.
Has **everybody** in the club paid **his or her** dues?

(2) The following indefinite pronouns are plural: *both, few, many, and several*.

EXAMPLE **Few** of the explorers became lost on **their** way out of the cave.

(3) The indefinite pronouns *all, any, more, most, none, and some* may be singular or plural, depending on their meaning in a sentence.

EXAMPLES **Most** of the forest has already been cut down, hasn't **it**? [*Most* refers to the singular noun *forest*.]
Most of the trees have already been cut down, haven't **they**? [*Most* refers to the plural noun *trees*.]

EXERCISE Each of the following sentences contains an error in pronoun-antecedent agreement. Draw a line through each incorrect pronoun, and write the correct form above it. Then, circle the antecedent.

Example 1. Each of the cats has ^{its}~~their~~ own special hiding place.

- Some of the CDs have lost its jewel cases.
- Few of the women's soccer team enjoyed her stay in Helsinki.
- Either of the brothers is willing to bring their baseball glove to the game.
- Hasn't anybody announced their intentions yet?
- Many of the reporters do his or her own research.
- All of the rosebushes in the garden have thorns on it.
- Everyone in the class is aware of their responsibility to bring a note from home.
- Someone on the swimming team left their goggles by the side of the pool.
- Several of the boys joined the military after he graduated from high school.
- Some of the people in the audience got the joke, and it laughed heartily.